

Free ferry rides for Malaysians

Complimentary service across Penang channel since this July to be continued for whole of next year

By N. TRISHA
trishang@thestar.com.my

MALAYSIANS need not dig into their pockets for change when taking the ferry to Penang. The ride is paid for.

State transport committee chairman Zairil Khir Johari said the ferry service would be free for pedestrians for the whole of next year from Jan 1 to Dec 31.

"We have been offering the free service for pedestrians since July 2021 as a state

initiative for all Malaysians.

"This is supported by the Mutiara pass for unlimited bus rides in the state which makes public transport in the state by land and sea free.

"We will now extend this funding for the whole of next year.

"This means all Malaysians of any age can use the ferry for free when travelling on foot.

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A ferry docking at the Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal (SPCT) in George Town, Penang. — LIM BENG TATT/The Star

Just show MyKad when boarding ferry to enjoy free ride'



(Above) Commuters sitting comfortably in the air-conditioned fast-boat ferry at SPCT in George Town, Penang. (Left) Passengers disembarking at the terminal. — LIM BENG TATT/The Star

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"All one has to do is bring their MyKad along when getting on the ferry to get a free ticket."

He was speaking at a press conference to announce the extension of the waiver of ticket charges for foot passengers wishing to cross the Penang channel at Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal (SPCT) in George Town on Monday. Zairil said the initiative would cost the state government around RM78,000 a month for 65,000 tickets.

"The whole allocation for this initiative is RM936,000," he said.

Zairil said the state government hoped that the initiative would encourage more people to use public transport as well as reduce their burden economically for

those who travel daily by ferry.

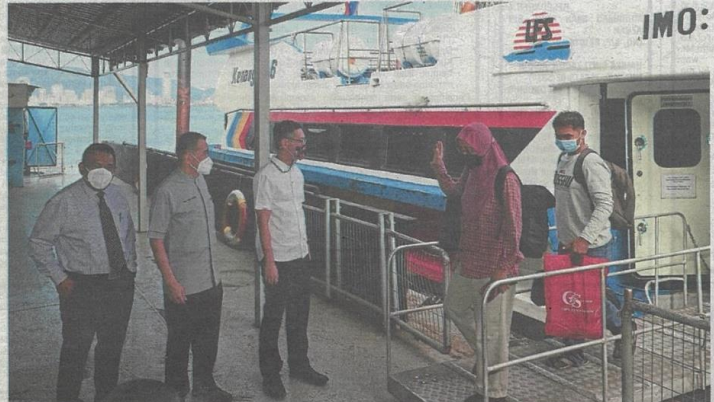
Penang Port Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Datuk Sasedharan Vasudevan said the ferry saw an influx of pedestrians over the past two months with it going up to 63,239 passengers last month.

"We expect to see the numbers go up even more this month due to the school holidays," he said.

Penang Port Commission chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng, who was present, said there had been good response to the fast-boat ferry service.

"The service that began this year saw good response due to the quick trips and time saved travelling to and from the mainland.

"So far, there have been no delays and it has been well-received," he said.



(From left) Sasedharan, Tan and Zairil meeting commuters arriving at the terminal in George Town.